

IN THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims which follows replaces any and all prior versions and/or listings of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method of evaluating compounds which are effective for treatment or prevention of obesity comprising:

- a)
 - i) a step in which a test compound is administered to or contacted with a test animal or a test cell, and
 - ii) a step of detecting change in the expression level of Slc25a10 gene or a gene which is functionally equivalent to said gene, in said test animal or test cell—, or
- b)
 - i) a step in which a test compound is administered to or contacted with a test animal or a test cell possessing a fusion gene comprising the expression regulatory region of Slc25a10 gene and a reporter gene, and
 - iii) a step of detecting change in the expression level of said reporter gene in said test animal or test cell.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended) A method of evaluating compounds according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said change in expression level is a reduction in the expression level.

Claim 4 (currently amended) A method of evaluating compounds according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 3, further comprising a step of detecting change in at least one selected from ACC1 expression, malonyl-CoA abundance and fatty acid abundance.

Claim 5 (currently amended) A method of evaluating compounds which are effective for treatment or prevention of obesity comprising:

- a)
 - i) a step in which a test compound is administered to or contacted with a test animal or a test cell, and
 - ii) a step in which it is confirmed whether or not said test compound exhibits an effect on the activity of Slc25a10 protein—, or
- b)
 - i) a step in which a test compound is contacted with Slc25a10 protein, and
 - ii) a step in which it is confirmed whether or not said test compound exhibits an effect on the activity of said protein.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended) An agent for treatment or prevention of obesity containing as an active ingredient a compound obtained by an evaluation method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 6.

Claim 8 (currently amended) A method of treating obesity by inhibiting fatty acid synthesis accomplished by lowering the expression level of Slc25a10 gene.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein A the method of treating obesity by inhibiting fatty acid synthesis by lowering the expression level of Slc25a10 gene is achieved by RNAi.

Claim 10 (original) ~~A method of inhibiting fatty acid synthesis~~ The method according to claim 9, wherein said RNAi is accomplished by using one or more siRNA selected from the group consisting of siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 3 and 4, siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 6, siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 7 and 8, siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 9 and 10, siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 11 and 12, siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 17 and 18, siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 21 and 22, siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 23 and 24, siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 25 and 26, siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 27 and 28, siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 29 and 30, siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 31 and 32, siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 35 and 36, siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 37 and 38, siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 39 and 40, siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 41 and 42, siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 43 and 44, siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 45 and 46, siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 47 and 48, and siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 49 and 50.

Claim 11 (currently amended) A method of inhibiting fatty acid synthesis according to claim 9, wherein said RNAi ~~is accomplished using siRNA consisting~~ consists of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 9 and 10 or of SEQ ID NOs: 41 and 42.

Claims 12-17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended) A method of examining obesity by:

- a) assaying expression level and change in expression level of Slc25a10 gene in a test tissue or a test cell, or
- b) assaying expression levels and change in expression level of Slc25a10 protein in a test tissue or a test cell, or
- c) assaying change in the amount of a substance involved in fatty acid synthesis resulting from change in expression level of Slc25a10 gene or activity of Slc25a10 protein in a test tissue or a test cell, or
- d) detecting a polymorphism in Slc25a10 gene in a test tissue or a test cell, or
- e) detecting expression or activity of a protein which affects expression of Slc25a10 gene through interaction with Slc25a10 protein.

Claims 19-22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (Currently amended) siRNA consisting of the nucleic acids of SEQ ID NOs: 9 and 10 or 41 and 42.

Claim 24 (original) An Slc25a10 expression inhibiting agent comprising siRNA according to claim 23.

Claim 25 (original) A fatty acid synthesis inhibiting agent comprising siRNA according to claim 23.

Claim 26 (original) A therapeutic or preventing agent for obesity comprising siRNA according to claim 23.

Claims 27-30 (canceled)